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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Nigeria:* draft resolution

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund for Poverty Eradication

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as well as its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 50/107 of 20 September 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first Decade of the United Nations for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular in African countries and the least developed countries,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized, others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, and there is increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Also recognizing that for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective it is imperative for developing countries to be integrated into the world economy and equitably share the benefits of globalization,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Bearing in mind the Copenhagen Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the Political declaration[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalized world" (Geneva, 26-30 June 2000),

Bearing in mind also the Millennium Declaration[4] adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, particularly section III, "Development and poverty eradication", and its emphasis on solidarity as a fundamental and universal value in international relations in the twenty-first century,

Recalling the commitment made by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit to eradicate extreme poverty, in particular the commitment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recognizing that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and to ensure basic social protection,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),[5]

1. *Stresses* that the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger;

2. *Calls for* strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments adopted at United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, as well as the Millennium Declaration,[4] as they relate to the eradication of poverty;

3. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role in the eradication of poverty of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes, promotes equitable income distribution and minimizes environmental degradation;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the adoption of appropriate policy responses to the challenges of globalization at the national level, in particular by pursuing sound and stable domestic policies, including sound macroeconomic and social policies, in order to realize the objective of the eradication of poverty;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-24/__, annex, sect. I.

[4] Resolution 55/2.

[5] A/55/407.

5. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication by fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making with regard to the policies that affect them, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and an efficient and accountable public service and administration;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to take concrete action to formulate and implement their national poverty alleviation strategies with a view to achieving the goal of halving by 2015 the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger;

7. *Urges* the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief for developing countries, and emphasizes that the international community should consider further measures that would lead to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries so that they can share equally in the benefits of globalization, cope with its negative effects, avoid being marginalized in the process of globalization and achieve full integration into the world economy;

8. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

9. *Calls upon* the developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

10. *Decides* to establish a World Solidarity Fund for Poverty Eradication, which will contribute to the eradication of poverty and to the promotion of social and human development in the poorest regions of the world;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary consultations with Member States and all relevant stakeholders on the modalities and operations of the Fund, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions;

12. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and to facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular by developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this

regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

13. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education and training and basic education in the empowerment of those living in poverty;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations system to assign priority to the eradication of poverty and to enhance cooperation and, in this regard, encourages the entities of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other partners in development, to continue to support all Member States in carrying forward their own strategy for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

15. *Welcomes also* the efforts made to implement the 20/20 initiative, which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;

16. *Urges* the implementation of the enhanced programme of assistance to heavily indebted poor countries without delay and the cancellation of all the official bilateral debt of those countries in return for their making a demonstrable commitment to poverty reduction as part of their overall development strategy;

17. *Recognizes* the difficulties of heavily indebted middle-income developing countries and other heavily indebted middle-income countries in meeting their external debt and debt-servicing obligations, and notes the worsening situation in some of them in the context, inter alia, of greater liquidity constraints, which may require debt treatment, including, as appropriate, debt-reduction measures that will assist them in their efforts to combat poverty effectively;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".